



BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER EARLY DETECTION

WHAT IS THE PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE?

- In 2004, an estimated 215,990 new breast cancer cases and 10,520 new cervical cancer cases will be diagnosed, an estimated 40,580 women will die from breast cancer, and an estimated 3,900 will die from cervical cancer.
- The risk of being diagnosed with breast cancer increases with age. Seventy-five percent of all diagnosed cases of breast cancer are among women aged 50 years or older. Mammography is the best available method to detect breast cancer in its earliest, most treatable stage and can detect cancers several years before a woman or her healthcare provider can feel a lump.
- Papanicolaou (Pap tests) screening has become more prevalent and pre-invasive lesions of the cervix are detected far more frequently than invasive cancer.

WHAT HAS CDC ACCOMPLISHED?

With funds from CDC's breast and cervical cancer prevention appropriations, CDC's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP) has raised awareness about the importance of early detection, contributing to the 18% increase in mammography use among women over age 50 since the program's inception in 1991. The program targets low-income women with little or no health insurance and has helped reduce disparities in screening for racial and ethnic minority women. About 50% of the women screened have been from racial/ethnic minority groups. Over 4 million screening tests have been provided with about 14,446 breast cancers, 55,210 precancerous cervical lesions, and 1,020 cases of invasive cervical cancer being diagnosed. CDC works with states to ensure that women diagnosed through NBCCEDP have access to treatment. In addition, the *Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act of 2000* allows women in NBCCEDP access to treatment through Medicaid.

Example of Program in Action

The California Department of Health's *Every Woman Counts Program* launched the first statewide breast cancer hotline in the United States for Asian-American women. As a way of reaching this population, the department broadened its hotline to offer information in Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese dialects), Korean, and Vietnamese, in addition to the information already offered in English and Spanish. Through its 2000 public awareness campaign, *Every Woman Counts...Every Year*, the department sponsored radio and print ads in Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese to let Asian-American women know about the hotline. Because of the campaign, calls to the hotline increased from 24 in April 2000 to 576 in June 2000. On average, the hotline receives 60 to 80 calls per month, three times the number received prior to the campaign.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

CDC will continue to work with programs to increase the number of eligible women to be screened and to implement effective re-screening strategies. Interventions that reach underserved, rarely or never-screened women, particularly when early stages of cancer can be detected, will be used. CDC will continue to work closely with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to implement the *Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act of 2000*.

For additional information on this or other CDC programs, visit www.cdc.gov/program

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